

THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

AND

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

AND

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF THE RELEASE OF 'PLACER'
ERECT WILLOW (Salix ligulifolia) (Ball) Ball ex Schneider.

Notification of the naming and release of 'Placer' erect willow.

'Placer' erect willow Salix ligulifolia is a vegetatively propagated cultivar recommended for use in streambank stabilization and the restoration of riparian areas. It also has potential for use as native hedges or screens, wildlife habitat, natural area landscaping and windbreaks. In low maintenance plantings, 'Placer' has established and survived more readily than other willows.

'Placer' erect willow is a medium shrub 1-5 meters (m) [3-16 feet] tall with relatively narrow foliage and an upright to rounded habit that is open at the base. 'Placer' is derived from a single male clone and therefore produces only staminate flowers in March. The name is indicative of Placer County, California where the material was originally collected.

Origin: 'Placer' erect willow is a selection from a native collection made near Auburn, California in February, 1978 by Soil Conservation Service employees. A single male clone chosen by the SCS Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, Oregon provided the source material for the foundation cutting block established in 1983.

Description: 'Placer' erect willow is a medium sized, multistemmed shrub 1-5 m in height, with dark gray bark, light green foliage, upright to spreading branches, and yellowish green twigs. Leaves are alternate, ligulate or lanceolate to linear in shape, 5-10 centimeters (cm) long, 1-2 cm wide, 5 to 10 times longer than wide, glaucous beneath, glabrous when mature, with subentire or finely serrate margins; stipules foliaceous, small, and soon absent; petioles short, 5-10 millimeters (mm) long; male catkins sessile, 2-4 cm long, with a few small, leafy bracts at the base; stamens 2 per flower with yellow anthers; flower scales dark and hairy. Catkins emerge in late February or March, generally 2 weeks before the foliage. Leaves are deciduous, falling by late November.

Positive identification of 'Placer' erect willow as Salix ligulifolia (Ball) Ball ex Schneider. was obtained from Dr. George Argus, National Herbarium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

'Placer' willow was first assigned the SCS accession number 9004765. In January, 1987 it was officially designated PI-508556 under the old name Salix rigida Muhlenb.

Adaptation: 'Placer' erect willow is known to be adapted to riparian areas, moist sites, and mountain valleys west of the Cascade Range in Oregon, Washington and northern California where precipitation exceeds 760mm (30 inches) per year. Potential area of adaptation includes the Sierra Nevada foothills and valleys, California Coast Range, and adjacent areas with adequate moisture. *S. ligulifolia* is indigenous to watercourses and meadows at 900-2900 m (3000-9500 feet) in the Sierra Nevada; also, to Oregon, South Dakota, and New Mexico. It tolerates most soil types from sand to clay.

Performance: 'Placer' erect willow or 9004765 was evaluated in an observational row nursery against 105 accessions or individual clones comprising at least 8 native species. Accession 9004765 was the only clone of *S. ligulifolia* tested. It was selected for its uniform growth, high basal stem density, attractive foliage, shrub form, and apparent freedom from serious disease pests compared to other material. 'Placer' attained a height of 3.1 m (10 feet) after 4 years and 4.3 m (14 feet) in 9 years without irrigation at the Corvallis Plant Materials Center (40 inch ppt). On favorable upland sites, it has demonstrated growth rates of 50-120 cm (1.7-4.0 feet) per year during the first 4 years. In one study, survival (70 percent) was the highest of 7 willows tested under severe grass competition with no weed control. Data from 35 field plantings along streams and ditches, and on other moist, low maintenance sites in Oregon and Washington indicates an overall survival of 55 percent after 1 to 5 years. However, where proper site selection and planting techniques are employed, survival exceeds 85 percent.

Propagation: 'Placer' erect willow is a vegetatively propagated cultivar. Fifteen to 20 cm (6-8 inch) cuttings, 6-13 mm (1/4 to 1/2 inch) in diameter, will root readily in moist potting medium under greenhouse conditions. Thirty to 50 cm (12-20 inch) cuttings planted directly into the field will grow if adequate moisture exists and proper site preparation and planting techniques are employed. Where water tables are low or receding, 90-150 cm (3-5 foot) unrooted whips, 13 mm (1/2 inch) or more in diameter, can be utilized to improve survival.

Material Distribution: Foundation stock will be available January, 1989 in limited quantities to commercial nurseries, agricultural experiment stations, researchers, and arboretums through the Oregon State University Seed and Plant Certification Program, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. The USDA, Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, 3420 NE Granger, Corvallis, Oregon 97330 will maintain original mother plants for supplying certified stock. Material should be available commercially by January, 1991.

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10-18-88
Date

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